

Recently I have been hearing from families who are planning their spring and summer vacations. Several constituents have expressed concerns about new document requirements for Americans traveling abroad, so I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the latest information about what you will need to embark upon your travels.

Beginning on January 23, 2007, the United States government implemented new document requirements for citizens traveling abroad. In the past, a driver's license was all you needed to return by land from Canada or Mexico. In order to improve border security, **additional documentation is now required for entry**

In order to re-enter the United States from any other country, *including Mexico and Canada*, U. S. Citizens age 18 and older must present documentation that proves both their identity and their United States citizenship. Both of these requirements can be met with one document by using any of the following items:

Entry Documents

- A U.S. Passport
- A U.S. Passport Card (Available spring 2008)
- Trusted Traveler Cards (NEXUS, SENTRI, or FAST)
- State or Provincial issued Enhanced Drivers' License (when available-denotes both identity and citizenship)
- Enhanced Tribal Cards (when available)
- U.S. Military Identification with Military Travel Orders
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Document
- Native American Tribal Photo Identification Card
- Form I-872 American Indian Card
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Card

Two Document Option

Citizens who can not provide one of the above documents must use the two document option. These travelers must provide one document which proves their identity, and one document which proves their citizenship. These requirements can be met using the following forms of ID:

Identification Documents

- Driver's license or identification card issued by a federal, state, provincial, county, territory, or municipal government authority.
- U.S. or Canadian Military Identification Card

Travel Documents

- U.S. or Canadian birth certificate issued by a federal, state, provincial, county, territory, or municipal government authority
 - U.S. Consular report of birth abroad
 - U.S. Certificate of Naturalization
 - U.S. Certificate of Citizenship
 - U.S. Citizen Identification Card
 - Canadian Citizenship Card
 - Canadian certificate of citizenship without photo

There are a few special cases that provide exceptions:

- Children under 18 who are citizens of the United States or Canada may submit a birth certificate without a photo ID.
- Lawful Permanent Residents may submit their Permanent Resident Card (1-551) or other valid evidence of lawful permanent residence in the United States when they travel abroad.

For more information

These requirements are in addition to whatever documentation may be required by the travelers' destination country. In order to learn what documents are required by the country you plan to visit, you may visit the Department of State travel website at <http://www.state.gov/travelandbusiness/>.

Because of a backlog in applications, those travelers who need passports are advised to apply for them at least 12 weeks in advance. If, 2 weeks before traveling, you or a member of your family still has not received your passport, please feel free to [contact my District Office](#) for assistance.

Have a great trip!

I hope this information proves useful to you and your family, and that you have a safe and pleasant experience abroad.